

9/019/035

From: Anthony Gallegos
To: Mary Ann, wayne
Date: Wed, Aug 11, 1999 12:00 PM
Subject: s/019/035 AMMI - NON - documentation of call from operator

MaryAnn, Wayne,

I returned a call to Dale Snyder (801) 360-8191 operator for the AMMI site on the Dolores River. He was upset and wanted to discuss our Notice of Noncompliance letter and explain what he was doing out at the site. He explained that they were reclaiming old disturbances on top of that hill which they were required to do under the plan approved by the BLM because the site had a lot of old existing disturbances when they started operating. The top of the hill was where an old trailer had been parked. While they were up there pushing stuff around they did run some of the material through their processing plant just to see what was up there. They did that work up there a year or so ago. He has some video documentation of the existing disturbances on the site when they first started up. Sal at the BLM told them to do that work and Sal knew they were supposed to reclaim those old disturbances. Mr. Snyder said they were only operating on those four acres, and they had not done any mining in the old pits for years. They have been paying their claim fees and have a bond posted with the BLM, so why did they get this letter. They have cleaned that place up quite a bit compared with the way it used to look.

I explained that we measured the area which would be considered as disturbed according to our regulations. I explained that we would need to discuss this issue of reclaiming old disturbances with the BLM, however, what we saw on the hill (as he admitted) led us to believe they were mining and processing materials from this area which was outside of the approved area of mining, and this area was disturbed.

He said he was sending us a certified letter and he wanted to take care of this matter and get on with his business. I told him I would mention this conversation to my supervisor & associate director and that we would act after we received his letter. We would need to sort out the reclamation of old disturbances with the BLM. I told him one possible solution would be to reclaim some areas this fall with the BLM and Division staff out there. Then those reclaimed areas could be clearly identified and removed from his permit responsibility.

tony g

CC: doug